

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation *by* *Governor Sean Parnell*

WHEREAS, Alaska's children are the future of our great state – and Alaska's foster parents open their hearts and homes for some of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, foster parents face enormous challenges, and display selflessness as they care for children in need with only the intrinsic reward of knowing they have made a positive impact on the life of a child; and

WHEREAS, foster parents play a key role in keeping children safe and helping build strong families. In addition to providing the love and care these children need, foster parents play a vital role in helping children and their families reconnect, while preparing them for a healthy future; and

WHEREAS, in March 2012, 1,801 Alaskan children were residing in out-of-home care, while efforts to protect the child while at home had been exhausted. Alaska's foster parents deserve our gratitude and respect for the work they do every day to ensure our children receive the support they need during this traumatic time in their young lives; and

WHEREAS, Alaska benefits from the selfless dedication and daily service provided by our foster parents, and their contributions to the welfare of Alaska's families are incalculable and irreplaceable; and

WHEREAS, across Alaska throughout the month of May, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Office of Children's Services, other State agencies, child welfare advocates, foster parent organizations, and private officials will sponsor and hold special events highlighting the people who make a difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim
May 2012 as:

Foster Parent Appreciation Month

in Alaska, and encourage Alaskans to recognize and celebrate the achievements, sacrifices, and contributions of foster parents in their communities.

Dated: April 26, 2012



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sean Parnell".

*Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*